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10/049,590	06/06/2002	Sami Uskela	042933/321092	9705
826 7590 03/30/2007 ALSTON & BIRD LLP BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA 101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000 CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			EXAMINER GOLD, AVI M	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the amendment filed on January 31, 2007. Claims 1, 6, 15, and 21 were amended. Claims 5, 14, 19, 29, 32-34, and 36-38 were cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-18, 20-28, 30, 31, and 35 are pending.

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7, 10-22, and 25-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satran et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,430,183, further in view of Stapleton et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,175,875.

Satran teaches the invention as claimed including transmission networks of the type wherein a plurality of transmitters are transmitting streams of data frames over a broadband channel to a plurality of receivers (see abstract).

Regarding claim 1, Satran teaches a method comprising the steps of:

receivers belonging to a multicast group in a packet-switched network and specific parameters of the receivers, wherein the specific parameters comprise

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parameters which are dependent on receiver conditions (col. 4, lines 48-60, col. 5, lines 15-43, Satran discloses address templates for filtering and receiver specific parameters);

receiving, in a routing unit, data packets from a sender (col. 3, lines 31-39, Satran discloses data transmitted from a host computer);

buffering, in a routing unit, out of the data packets received from the sender multicast data packets having a destination address which is a multicast address of the multicast group (col. 4, lines 48-60, Satran discloses the data transmitted being part of a multicast);

communicating the multicast address from the routing unit to the control unit (col. 3, lines 31-39, col. 4, lines 48-60);

in the control unit, determining, by searching based on the multicast address addresses of receivers of the multicast group indicated by the multicast address and the specific parameters of the receivers and supplying the address and the specific parameters to the routing unit (col. 4, lines 48-60, Satran discloses address templates for filtering, col. 5, lines 33-43, Satran discloses a receiver searching for a particular multicast address and a filtered data block received at an address);

filtering, in the routing unit, the multicast data packets accordance with the specific parameters for each receiver of the multicast group to obtain filtered multicast data packets (col. 5, lines 16-35, Satran discloses filtering done with a receiver specific parameter); and

transmitting, by the routing unit, the filtered multicast data packets to the addresses of the receivers (col. 5, lines 33-35, Satran discloses a filtered data block received at an address).

Satran fails to teach the limitation further including storing, in a control unit, tables of addresses of receivers and searching the tables based on the multicast address.

However, Stapleton teaches the transmission of multicast communications or other high volume traffic through a network (see abstract). Stapleton teaches the use of a table that stores multicast communication addresses (col. 7, lines 4-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Satran in view of Stapleton to store tables of addresses of receivers and search the tables based on the multicast address. One would be motivated to do so because a table is an efficient and convenient way to store information.

Regarding claim 2, Satran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the specific parameters indicate a certain content of data packets that is not to be received by a specific receiver (col. 4, lines 48-60).

Regarding claim 3, Satran teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the specific parameters indicate a data amount of a certain content in data packets which is not to be received by a specific receiver (col. 7, lines 58-66, Satran discloses a block size that needs to be reached).

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Regarding claim 4, Satran teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the certain content is filtered out during the filtering (col. 5, lines 15-43).

Regarding claim 6, Satran teaches a method, comprising:

receivers belonging to a multicast group in a packet-switched network and specific parameters of the receivers, wherein the specific parameters comprise parameters which are dependent on receiver conditions (col. 4, lines 48-60, col. 5, lines 15-43);

receiving, in a routing unit, data packets from a sender (col. 3, lines 31-39);

buffering, in a routing unit, out of the data packets received from the sender multicast data packets having a destination address which is a multicast address of a multicast group (col. 4, lines 48-60);

communicating the multicast address from the routing unit to the control unit (col. 3, lines 31-39, col. 4, lines 48-60);

in the control unit, determining by, searching based on the multicast address addresses of receivers of the multicast group indicated by the multicast address and the specific parameters of the receivers, and supplying the addresses and the specific parameters to the routing unit (col. 4, lines 48-60, col. 5, lines 33-43);

filtering, in the routing unit, the addresses in accordance with the specific parameters to obtain filtered receiver addresses (col. 5, lines 16-35); and

transmitting, by the routing unit, the multicast data packets to the filtered receiver addresses (col. 5, lines 33-35).

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Satran fails to teach the limitation further including storing, in a control unit, tables of addresses of receivers and searching the tables based on the multicast address.

However, Stapleton teaches the use of a table that stores multicast communication addresses (col. 7, lines 4-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Satran in view of Stapleton to store tables of addresses of receivers and search the tables based on the multicast address. One would be motivated to do so because a table is an efficient and convenient way to store information.

Regarding claim 7, Satran teaches the method of claim 6, wherein the buffering step further includes:

detecting contents and a data amount of data packets, and wherein the filtering further includes (col. 4, lines 48-60):

filtering the determined addresses in accordance with detected results (col. 5, lines 16-35).

Regarding claim 10, Satran teaches the method of claim 7, wherein the specific parameters indicate a certain content of data packets that is not to be received by a specific receiver (col. 7, lines 58-66).

Regarding claim 11, Satran teaches the method of claim 7, wherein the specific parameters indicate a certain data amount of data packets which is not to be received by a specific receiver (col. 7, lines 58-66).

Regarding claim 12, Satran teaches the method of claim 10, wherein when the certain content is detected in the detecting step the address of the specific receiver is filtered out during the filtering step (col. 5, lines 15-43).

Regarding claim 13, Satran teaches the method of claim 11, wherein when the certain data amount is detected in the detecting step the address of the specific receiver is filtered out during the filtering step col. 5, lines 15-43).

Regarding claim 15, Satran teaches an apparatus, comprising:

a control unit configured to store addresses of receivers belonging to a multicast group in a packet-switched network and specific parameters of the receivers, wherein the specific parameters comprise parameters which are dependent on receiver conditions; and

a routing unit configured to receive data packets from a sender and buffer multicast data packets out of the data packets received from the sender, the multicast data packets having a destination address which is a multicast address of a multicast group, and communicate the multicast address to the control unit;

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wherein the control unit is configured to determine the addresses of the receivers of the multicast group indicated by the multicast address and the specific parameters of the receivers by searching based on the multicast address, and to supply the addresses and filters to the routing unit; and

wherein the routing unit is configured to filter the multicast data packets in accordance with the specific parameters for each receiver of the multicast group to obtain filtered multicast data packets and to transmit the filtered multicast data packets to the addresses of the receivers (col. 3, lines 31-39; col. 4, lines 48-60; col. 5, lines 15-43).

Satran fails to teach the limitation further including storing tables of addresses of receivers and searching the tables based on the multicast address.

However, Stapleton teaches the use of a table that stores multicast communication addresses (col. 7, lines 4-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Satran in view of Stapleton to store tables of addresses of receivers and search the tables based on the multicast address. One would be motivated to do so because a table is an efficient and convenient way to store information.

Regarding claim 16, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 15, where the specific parameters indicate a certain content of data packets that is not to be received by the specific receiver (col. 7, lines 58-66).

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Regarding claim 17, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 15, wherein the specific parameters indicate a data amount certain content in data packets which data amount is not to be received by a specific receiver (col. 7, lines 58-66).

Regarding claim 18, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 16, wherein the certain content is filtered out by the routing unit (col. 5, lines 15-43).

Regarding claim 20, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 15, wherein the control means determines the receiver addresses and specific parameters via tables stored in the control unit (col. 5, lines 26-35, Satran discloses an address field stored in a bitmap).

Regarding claim 21, Satran teaches an apparatus, comprising:

a control unit configured to store addresses of receivers belonging to a multicast group in a packet-switched network and specific parameters of the receivers, wherein the specific parameters comprise parameters which are dependent on receiver conditions; and

a routing unit configured to receive data packets from a sender and buffer multicast data packets out of the data packets received from the sender, the multicast data packets having a destination address which is a multicast address of a multicast group, and communicate the multicast address to the control unit; and

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wherein the control unit is configured to determine the addresses of the receivers of the multicast group indicated by the multicast address and the specific parameters of the receivers by searching based on the multicast address, and supply the addresses and the specific parameters to the routing unit; and

wherein the routing unit is configured to filter the address of the receivers of the multicast group in accordance with the specific parameters for each receiver of the multicast group to obtain filtered receiver addresses, and transmit the multicast data packets to the filtered receiver addresses (col. 3, lines 31-39; col. 4, lines 48-60; col. 5, lines 15-43).

Satran fails to teach the limitation further including storing tables of addresses of receivers and searching the tables based on the multicast address.

However, Stapleton teaches the use of a table that stores multicast communication addresses (col. 7, lines 4-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Satran in view of Stapleton to store tables of addresses of receivers and search the tables based on the multicast address. One would be motivated to do so because a table is an efficient and convenient way to store information.

Regarding claim 22, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 21, wherein the routing unit detects contents and a data amount of data packets and communicates the results to the control unit which designates the filters in accordance with these results (col. 7, lines 58-66).

Regarding claim 25, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 22, wherein the specific parameters indicate a certain content of data packets that is not to be received by a specific receiver (col. 7, lines 58-66).

Regarding claim 26, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 22, wherein the specific parameters indicate a certain data amount of data packets which is not to be received by a specific receiver (col. 7, lines 58-66).

Regarding claim 27, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 25, wherein when the certain content is detected by the routing unit the address of the specific receiver is filtered out by the routing unit (col. 7, lines 58-66).

Regarding claim 28, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 26, wherein when the certain data amount is detected by the routing unit the address of the specific receiver is filtered out by the routing unit (col. 7, lines 58-66).

Regarding claim 30, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 21, wherein the control unit determines the receiver addresses and specific parameters via tables stored in the control unit (col. 5, lines 26-35).

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Regarding claim 31, Satran teaches the method of claim 3, wherein the certain content is filtered out during the filtering (col. 5, lines 15-43).

Regarding claim 35, Satran teaches the apparatus of claim 17, wherein the certain content is filtered out by the routing unit (col. 5, lines 15-43).

3. Claims 8, 9, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satran and Stapleton further in view of Haggerty et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,331,983.

Satran teaches the invention substantially as claimed including transmission networks of the type wherein a plurality of transmitters are transmitting streams of data frames over a broadband channel to a plurality of receivers (see abstract). Stapleton teaches the invention substantially as claimed including the transmission of multicast communications or other high volume traffic through a network (see abstract).

As to claims 8, 9, 23, and 24, Satran and Stapleton teach the method and apparatus of claims 6 and 21.

Satran and Stapleton fail to teach the limitation further including a time at which no data packets are to be received or filtered.

However, Haggerty teaches a method and apparatus for establishing a connection path for multicast traffic through a switched network, and across

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router/switch boundaries, which conserves network bandwidth (see abstract). Haggerty teaches the use of a time-to-live (TTL) (col. 2, lines 9-15; col. 4, lines 34-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Satran and Stapleton in view of Haggerty to use a time at which no data packets are to be received or filtered. One would be motivated to do so because it would allow for controlled distribution of multicast packets (col. 2, lines 3-5).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-18, 20-28, 30, 31, and 35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. Applicant's arguments, regarding the references, Satran and Stapleton, filed January 31, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,055,364 to Speakman et al., because it discloses content-based filtering of multicast information.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,933,605 to Kawano et al., because it discloses multicast messages filtered based on message content.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,175,875 to Stapleton et al., because it discloses multicast filtering.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Avi Gold whose telephone number is 571-272-4002. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:30 (1st Friday Off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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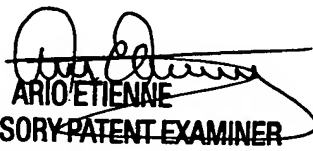
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Avi Gold

Patent Examiner

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